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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Grimma

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

5 November 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 9 October 1953, the Strassburg Kaserne in Grimma was occupied by about 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 30 percent with tank insignia and, a few, red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About 60 percent of the windows of the barracks buildings were lighted after nightfall. At 10 a.m. on 8 October, about 50 troops drilled, about 20 troops received instruction on 3 x 82-mm mortars, about 10 troops received instruction on 2 x 76-mm guns and about 20 troops engaged in physical training in the barracks area. In the afternoon, 15 soldiers were cleaning the quarters and 40 soldiers engaged in physical training, while truck [redacted] was seen at the filling station. On 9 October, three T-34 tanks were seen entering the installation. Trucks seen en route to and from the installation

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2. On 9 October, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and including about 200 troops wearing artillery insignia, and 12 uniformed women. At 8 a.m. on 9 October, about 60 troops were seen drilling in the barracks area and, in the afternoon, about 15 men and maintenance work on 6 trucks, 2 ambulances and 1 jeep, while about 30 troops engaged in physical training and about 50 troops practiced aiming with rifles and machine guns.

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3. On 12 October, the Strassburg Kaserne was occupied by about 800 to 900 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 5 October, about 400 troops engaged in rifle training and physical training

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in the barracks yard. On 6 October, about 500 unarmed troops and 60 to 70 uniformed women, wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, were entrained at the upper railroad station in Grimma and left toward Leipzig. The troops, who had come from the Strassburg Kaserne, carried baggage. At about 9 a.m. on 12 October, vehicles were being attended to in the sheds.

4. On 12 October, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport and signal insignia. On 5 October, about 70 troops received instruction on 6 x 120-mm mortars in the barracks yard. On 6 October, about 900 troops were seen in front of the kitchens, waiting for their meals. On 9 October, about 300 troops carrying cable reels and field telephones were seen entering the installation, coming from the direction of Rappenberg.

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5. On 7 October, about 350 to 400 troops and about 16 officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and organized in groups of 40 to 60 soldiers were firing live ammunition with 6 T-34/85 tanks, and engaged in maintenance work at the participating, Otterwisch tank training area. Motor vehicles were seen nearby. On 9 October, about 47 officers, 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and about 80 troops with signal insignia received training in firing with carbines, and field training, and engaged in maintenance work and firing with live ammunition with 5 tanks, taking part.

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6. On 5 October, the Strassburg Kaserne was occupied by about 300 to 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia and including some with tank and motor transport insignia. On 21 September, T-34/85 tanks and armored personnel carriers were seen entering the installation. On 28 September, armored personnel carriers were seen in front of the filling station west of the barracks installation. About 30 troops received instruction on 3 x 37-mm AA guns in the barracks yard. Motor vehicles

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were seen en route to and from the installation.

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7. On 5 October, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by about 200 troops who, were engineers, 100 troops of a signal unit and another 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia. On 5 October, 6 trucks with engineer equipment were seen entering the installation, coming from the direction of the training area at Schaddel at the Mulde River. Motor vehicles seen entering and leaving the installation

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8. On 21 September, T-34/85 tanks and armored personnel carriers were seen leaving the Otterwisch training area.

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Comment. [REDACTED]

The bulk of the units of the 8th Gds Mecz Div were apparently at the post during the first half of October and engaged in firing practices at Otterwisch as late as early October. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The personnel shipment mentioned in paragraph 3 of the present report tends to indicate that discharges left for the USSR. [REDACTED]

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